



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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July 1, 2015

TO: Superintendents, Local Education Agencies  
Directors, Exceptional Children Programs  
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools

FROM: Tracy S. Weeks, Chief Academic and Digital Learning Officer  
Academic and Digital Learning

William J. Hussey, Director  
Exceptional Children Division

RE: **Risk Pool Program Application for Funds - FY 2015-2016 Federal Program Report Code (PRC) 114 Funds, Ages 3 through 21**

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act 2004 (IDEA 2004) has a special provision which gives states the opportunity to reserve a percentage of the state's set-aside funds for implementing a neutral cost sharing and reimbursement program of high-need, low-incidence, catastrophic, and/or extraordinary aid to LEAs/Charter Schools providing services to "high-need" children with disabilities. This is the tenth year the Exceptional Children Division has implemented the Children with Disabilities – Risk Pool Program Fund (RPF). This federal program is listed in the Allotment Policy Manual as Children with Disabilities – Risk Pool Program Fund, PRC 114.

The Risk Pool Program Fund **application and review process for the 2015-2016 school year** is outlined below:

- All applications must be submitted by mail and postmarked by September 30, 2015.
- To be eligible for funding consideration, a child must have special education and related service costs that **exceed \$25,431 a year and** have a minimum **rubric score of eight (8) or higher.**
- All applications will be ranked based on individual child rubric scores and allocations will be made based on available funds.
- **For children funded with Risk Pool Program funds in 2014-15, an End-of-Year update must have been received for funding for 2015-2016 to be considered.**
- Although LEAs/Charter Schools can apply for funding for a specific child for up to five (5) years, there is no guarantee that the application will be funded each year, as it is based on the rubric score and the availability of funds.
- Requests for equipment must include a copy of the relevant evaluation(s) (i.e. PT, OT, SLP, Assistive Technology, etc.) and the IEP to justify the need for the child. An itemized list of the materials, including prices and vendors, must also accompany the application.

## EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

William J. Hussey, *Director* | bill.hussey@dpi.nc.gov

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Risk Pool Program **child specific funds** may be secured from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division **via an application process**. The organization of the application, reference materials, instructions and forms has changed. Each item is listed as a separate document on the Exceptional Children Division website under the Finance and Grant tab as a means to quickly locate items needed. Reference materials and instructions are grouped together, creating a reference manual for guidance with completing RPF forms. All RPF forms are listed individually for quick access.

Application forms and reference materials are located at the Exceptional Children Division's website under the Finance and Grants tab:

**<http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/finance-grants/applications/risk-pool-program>**

All decisions regarding Risk Pool funding will be made by October 31, 2015. Allocation information including the child(ren) approved and funding amounts will be mailed to the LEA/Charter School. Notification of approved application(s) will be sent to the School Allotment Section. Federal Risk Pool Program funds (PRC 114) will not be available until the end of October.

For further information, contact Lori J. Peterson at (919) 807-3932 or [lori.peterson@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:lori.peterson@dpi.nc.gov).

TSW/WJH/TAR/ljp

cc: Philip Price  
Alexis Schauss  
Finance Officers